

APIS LAPIDARIA.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Os maxillis atque proboscide inflexa vaginis duabus bivalvibus.

Alæ planæ.

Aculeus feminis et neutris punctorius reconditus.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

APIS hirsuta atra, ano fulvo.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 960.

Bombylius maximus, totus niger, exceptis duobus extremis abdominis annulis rubris.

Raj. ins. p. 246.

Reaum. ins. 6. t. 1. f. 1-4.

Frisch. ins. 9. t. 25. f. 2.

Scop. carn. 813.

Apum Britannicarum e maximis est *Apis lapidaria*, cumque colores sortita sit sibi peculiare, a reliquis, primo visu, facillime possit discerni. Magnitudinis multa est diversitas; parvulaque nonnulla specimina (mascula fortasse) sæpe voluerunt auctores speciem ab hac revera separatam constituere. Nidus perelegans, constans e fibris muscorum majorum arcte inter se contextis, forma ovata, efficto
in

in latere rotundo foramine, in aggeribus sylvarum & viarum diverbiis situs, larvas continet nec non cibum, mel nempe rude, in frustula fusca et inæqualia huc illuc sparsum; hæc enim species nullas cellulas seu favos ex composito ordinatos construit. Larvæ in chrysalidas conversæ, singulæ in theca sua quasi ovata includuntur.

Notandum est, apes has admodum hirsutas ab Anglis vulgari nomine *Humble-Bees* designari; nec defuere qui in gravem errorem lapsi, a defectu aculei inditum fuisse iis hoc nomen opinati sunt.



R. N.

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THE
ORANGE-TAILED BEE.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Mouth furnished with jaws and inflected proboscis with two bivalve sheaths.

Wings flat.

Sting concealed and exertile in the females and neuters.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Hairy black BEE, with orange-coloured tail.

The red-tailed Humble-BEE.

Great ORANGE-TAILED Garden-BEE.

The *Apis lapidaria* is one of the largest of the British bees, as well as the most remarkable in point of color, being at all times readily distinguishable from the rest of its congeners. It varies however very considerably in magnitude, and some specimens, (perhaps males) are of so comparatively small a size as to have been often considered and described as a distinct species. The nest constructed by this insect is of a very elegant appearance, being of an oval form, and composed of sprigs of the larger mosses,
very

very closely and neatly compacted together, a small round hole or entrance being left on one side. These nests are generally situated on dry shady banks in woods, lanes, &c. and contain the larvæ or young animals, together with their food, which consists of a coarse kind of honey of a brownish color, and disposed in somewhat irregular masses or heaps, this species not forming any angular cells or combs. The larvæ at the time of their change to a chrysalis are each enveloped in an oval case.

It may not be improper to add, that the Bees of this division in the genus, are popularly known by the title of Humble-Bees, and some authors, in conversant in natural history, have most erroneously imagined them, in consequence of the above name; to be destitute of a sting.